

HONORING THE MINISTRY OF
CARING OCTOBER 24, 2007

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today and recognize the Ministry of Caring on its 30th anniversary. Over the past three decades this remarkable charity has done extensive work with underprivileged populations in my home state of Delaware. This important milestone is cause for much celebration.

The Ministry of Caring began when its founder, Brother Ronald Giannone, set out on a mission to provide the poor with hospitality, friendship, and basic needs in such a way that would enable them to become independent and self-sufficient. Brother Ronald was unaware of his impact at the time, but he was actually setting out on a mission that would later become Wilmington's largest charity for the poor. Brother Ronald's vision first took shape in 1977 with the creation of the Mary Mother of Hope House, a shelter for homeless and destitute women. From there, the ministry's vision spread throughout our community at staggering speeds. The Ministry of Caring now operates nearly 30 facilities throughout the greater Wilmington area. Through these facilities, the Ministry runs over a dozen programs geared toward providing the poor with food, shelter, clothes, healthcare, and other essentials. Furthermore, the organization provides tools of empowerment such as job training and placement; resources that address root causes of poverty.

Though the ministry remains focused on helping disadvantaged populations, I can say from personal experience that the Delaware community as a whole is positively impacted by this organization. For many years now, my wife and I have had the privilege of volunteering our Thanksgivings at the Emmanuel Dining Room, serving meals to Delawareans in need. I cherish these opportunities because they allow me, and others just like me, to help less fortunate community members, while also spending quality time with family, friends, and fellow volunteers.

Recently the Ministry of Caring was given the highest possible score from the largest evaluator of charitable organizations in the world. While news of this accomplishment is certainly exciting, it is not at all surprising. The score affirms what many of us knew already: the ministry efficiently manages its finances, is worthy of the public's trust, and is highly regarded within its field.

On this 30th anniversary, I would like to recognize the many accomplishments of the Ministry of Caring. The hard work and dedication of its founder, Brother Ronald Giannone, along with its many employees and volunteers, have made these past 30 years a tremendous success. I highly commend this great organization for their immeasurable contributions to the state of Delaware and wish them all the best on this momentous anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CROOK COUNTY, OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the citizens of Crook County, Oregon who are celebrating the 125th anniversary of the establishment of their county this month.

The Enabling Act, creating Crook County from the southern portions of Wasco County, was approved and signed by the Governor of Oregon on October 24, 1882. He appointed 10 officials to govern the county: County Judge; 2 Commissioners; Assessor; County Clerk; Coroner; School Superintendent; Sheriff; Surveyor; and Treasurer.

Prineville, the county seat, is the oldest community in Central Oregon. In 1868 Barney Prine came to the Crooked River Valley and set up a blacksmith shop, saloon, and primitive country store along the banks of the Crooked River. A Post Office was established in 1871 and was named Prine in Barney's honor. The name of the Post Office was changed to Prineville in 1872.

The county is named after Major General George Crook, U.S. Army. General Crook was an 1852 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, a hero of the Snake Indian Wars, and, at the time of his death in 1890, was Commander of the Army's Department of the West.

When it was founded in 1882, Crook County encompassed an area of 8,600 square miles and had a population of only 2,500. In 1914 and 1916 Jefferson and Deschutes counties were carved out of Crook County leaving it at just under 3,000 square miles today, with a population of approximately 23,000.

Some of the more noteworthy events in the county's early history include: the building of the first county courthouse in the county seat of Prineville at a cost of \$5,474 in 1886; the first electrical service in Prineville in 1890; the first telephone service in the county in 1899; the opening of the first high school in 1905; and the first movie theater in 1909.

Between 1930 and 1940 Prineville became the nation's largest shipping point of pine lumber; in 1934 the Prineville Airport was dedicated; in 1940 the first dial telephones were installed in the county; and in 1952 the late Les Schwab opened his first tire store in Prineville, the very beginning of what is now one of the leading independent tire dealerships in the country with more than 7,000 employees and 400 stores throughout the western United States.

Today, Madam Speaker, the citizens of Crook County celebrate 125 years of rich pioneer heritage in their Central Oregon home, and look forward to an increasingly bright future in a growing and revitalized county. I am proud to represent the citizens of Crook County in the U.S. House of Representatives, and look forward to county's continued success.

HONORING TONYA G. JONES

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tonya Jones, a small business leader and president of Mark IV Enterprises, Inc. in Nashville, as she is inducted into the 2007 Building Industry of Tennessee Hall of Fame.

Tonya Jones has been a trailblazer in the building industry throughout her career. She became involved in construction in Nashville in 1980, started her own business in 1985, and in 1986 was the first woman elected to serve on the Builders Board for the Home Builders Association of Middle Tennessee.

Tonya Jones was instrumental in the establishment of the Home Builders Association of Middle Tennessee's Legal Defense Fund, and was the first to urge that HBAMT move forward with litigation against a county for unfair housing policies. Additionally, she was highly influential in cementing the success of the Self-Insured Worker's Compensation Trust Fund as one of its founding Trustees.

Tonya Jones has been named a Life Director for the National Association of Homebuilders, and in 1995, she earned the Home Builders Association of Tennessee's highest honor, Builder of the Year. The Better Business Bureau recognized her integrity and ethics in business by naming her Ambassador of the Year in 2006.

In addition to these accomplishments, Tonya Jones has served on boards of directors for numerous organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, the Better Business Bureau, TRICOR, Nashville Metropolitan Planning Commission, U.S. Bank Regional Board, and Nashville's Metropolitan Board for Parks and Recreation.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Tonya Jones for her exemplary contributions in business and in our community, and in congratulating her on this well-deserved award.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
ON COMMENDING THE ALASKA
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD FOR
ITS SERVICE TO THE STATE OF
ALASKA AND THE CITIZENS OF
THE UNITED STATES

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 586 members of the Alaska Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry who recently returned from their year-long deployment to southern Iraq and Kuwait. The guardsmen have been successfully serving as security forces in northern Kuwait and southern Iraq since October 2006, guarding camps and convoys heading into Iraq. The guardsmen come from all over my State, with members of the unit hailing from 80 different communities across Alaska including Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kodiak, Soldotna, Kenai, Nome, and many native villages. The unit also included National Guardsmen from New York, Mississippi, Illinois, Georgia, and Puerto Rico.

This was the largest deployment of the Alaska National Guard since World War II and thankfully all 586 guardsmen who were deployed overseas returned home safely. Many of these guardsmen had never left Alaska prior to joining the National Guard, but none hesitated to serve their country.

As I told the National Guardsmen at their welcome home ceremony at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, "You can't support the troops unless you respect them. And I humbly respect you because you have done your job as you were charged to do so, and as volunteers. You left your families and you went forth and accomplished what you were taught to do."

I truly believe that the importance of the National Guard to our country cannot be overstated, which is why it is important that we honor these citizen-soldiers. For this reason I am introducing the following resolution to honor these Guardsmen for their outstanding service to our country.

H. CON. RES. 240

Whereas the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry of the Alaska Army National Guard deployment of almost 600 Alaskans was the largest deployment of the Alaska National Guard since World War II;

Whereas the Alaskans of the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry came from 80 different communities across Alaska;

Whereas the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry included 75 soldiers from New York, Mississippi, Illinois, Georgia and Puerto Rico;

Whereas the 586 soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry were mobilized in July of 2006 and deployed to Camp Shelby, Mississippi;

Whereas the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry was deployed to Camp Navstar and Camp Buehring in Northern Kuwait;

Whereas the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry courageously performed route and perimeter security missions, mounted combat patrols and inspections and searches of vehicles going into Iraq from Kuwait, among other assignments;

Whereas the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, over the course of 15 months in Kuwait and Iraq, inspected and searched over 30,000 semi-trucks;

Whereas the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry designed all force protection plans in northern Kuwait;

Whereas the families of the members of the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry have provided unwavering support while waiting patiently for their loved ones to return;

Whereas the employers of members and family members of the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry have displayed patriotism over profit, by keeping positions saved for the returning soldiers and supporting the families during the difficult days of this long deployment, and these employers are great corporate citizens through their support of members of the Armed Forces and their family members;

Whereas the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry has performed admirably and courageously; gaining the gratitude and respect of Alaskans and all Americans; and

Whereas members of the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry received 7 Bronze Stars, 23 Meritorious Service Medals, 142 Army Commendations and more than 200 Army Achievement Medals for their outstanding service; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) commends the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry of the Alaska Army National Guard upon its completion of deployment and brave service to the Commonwealth of Alaska and the citizens of the United States; and

(2) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard for appropriate display.

HONORING FORMER
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES VANIK

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to former Congressman Charles Vanik, who served his constituents with honor and integrity in this body for 26 years.

On behalf of the people of Ohio's 13th District, I want to express my deepest sympathies to his wife of 62 years, Betty Best Vanik, their two children, John Vanik and Phyllis Vanik, his two grandchildren and the rest of the Vanik family.

We have lost a man who dedicated his life to serving our great State and this great country. Prior to being elected to Congress in 1954, Congressman Vanik served on the Cleveland City Council, in the Ohio State Senate and as a Cleveland municipal judge. He also served in the Navy during World War II.

In Congress, he earned a reputation as savvy legislator and a tireless advocate for the people of northeast Ohio. His 1974 amendment to the Trade Reform Bill is widely remembered for forcing the Soviet Union to allow fair treatment and increased emigration of Soviet Jews. This accomplishment had a significant impact on American-Soviet relations.

And Congressman Vanik was ahead of his times on civil rights, sacrificing his own congressional seat in 1968 so that Louis Stokes could become Ohio's first African American Congressman.

But Charles Vanik was so well-regarded in northeast Ohio that voters from the neighboring district would not stand for him leaving this House, and they chose to send him to Congress instead of the Representative who had served for nearly 30 years. Congressman Vanik returned to Congress and continued to work with Congressman Stokes and others to advocate for the people of Ohio.

Although I did not have the privilege of serving in the House with Congressman Vanik, I am honored to follow in his footsteps as a public servant and a voice for the people of Ohio.

It is truly an honor to stand on the Floor of the House of Representatives, where Charles Vanik stood for so many years fighting for northeast Ohio, to celebrate his life and his accomplishments.

And it is wonderful to hear so many touching stories about the memories my colleagues have of him and the influence he had on this House and its Members.

Although Congress, the United States, and the State of Ohio have lost a great statesman, he has been outlived by his legacy, and I am confident that we will continue to fondly recall Charles Vanik and the great work he did for years to come.

Again, I want to express my condolences to the Vanik family.

HONORING FORMER
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES VANIK

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to a fellow Ohioan, Charlie Vanik, who served honorably for 26 years in this House.

Charlie passed away last month at the age of 94, and I thank the gentlewoman from Cleveland for organizing this special order in his memory.

Charlie Vanik was a beautiful person. In many ways, he was the quintessential Clevelander—born of Czechoslovakian ancestry, he represented Cleveland's east side and eastern suburbs and did so with distinction and with class. He was learned and determined. As Dick Feigler, the well-known journalist in Cleveland said of Charlie, "It was all about hard work and humility." Charlie Vanik was a showman, but he wasn't a showoff. He was charming and he was humble.

He threw himself into public service with a style and gusto that his constituents enjoyed and appreciated. He took his responsibilities seriously, but he didn't take himself seriously. He rose to a position of prominence on the Ways and Means Committee. In fact, he became chairman of the trade subcommittee.

But make no mistake: Charlie Vanik never sold out. He never succumbed to the seduction of what the pundits call "Gucci Gulch." Charlie never forgot where he came from: 55th and Broadway had a different values set than Gucci Gulch. Still does.

So Charlie Vanik fought tooth and nail against tax loopholes for big business. He never forgot where he came from. Charlie Vanik may have retired from Congress, but his heart and mind kept working for America everyday.

On a regular basis, I would get phone calls from Charlie, just to say hello. He was never representing a client for monetary compensation—he always just kept working for America, and wanted to share his great ideas. He gave away his ideas—MARCY, he would say, Congress needs more strong voices to protect consumers in our nation, or on another occasion he would call to remind me to replace the sand on the public beaches of the Great Lakes that had either washed away or been used by construction companies over the years. Early on in my career, he advised me to visit many of the foreign embassies located in Washington to link to diplomats and scholars. He shared his love of life, and always called with an enthusiasm that revealed his joyful, encouraging and caring nature. His humanity was underscored by the manner in which he watched over his wife as she became ill. He never lost his way.

His name was attached to one of the landmark pieces of legislation from the Cold War era: the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. In truth, Senator Henry Jackson and Representative Charlie Vanik were actually ahead of their